

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 15676 221652Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 CA-01 PRS-01 PA-01

USIE-00 MCT-01 L-03 SP-02 OPR-02 A-01 IO-13

ACDA-07 CU-04 DODE-00 /084 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1644

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, UG, SHUM, GW

SUBJECT: UGANDAN BAN OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS

REFS: (A) STATE 226120; (B) NAIROBI 12227

BEGIN SUMMARY: FRG EMBASSY IN KAMPALA CONFIRMS BAN OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS. BAN NOT TIED TO ANY EXPULSION ORDER. USC'S CARROLL AND RICE HAVE BEEN CONTACTED. END SUMMARY.

ON SEPTEMBER 22, THE FRG EMBASSY IN KAMPALA SENT A REPORT ON AMIN'S BAN OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS TO THE FONOFF IN BONN. AN INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

1. ON SEPTEMBER 21, PRESIDENT AMIN ASSURED THE ARCHBISHOP OF THE CHURCH OF UGANDA, SILVANUS WANI, THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SUPPORT THE LARGEST CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN THEIR DUTIES. HE SAID THE 27 GROUPS WERE BANNED BECAUSE THEY HAD WORKED FOR THE CIA; PLANS FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUBVERTING UGANDA WERE BEING CONCOCTED IN KENYA, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA, THE UK AND THE USA. AT THE ARCH-BISHOP'S REQUEST, AMIN DECLARED HIMSELF READY TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE OF THE BANNED GROUPS, SPECIFICALLY THE ADVENTISTS, THE BAPTISTS AND THE SALVATION ARMY. A DATE FOR THE MEETING HAS NOT YET BEEN SET.

2. THERE HAS BEEN NO ENABLING LEGISLATION SO FAR, SINCE STATE SECRETARY FOR RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS WAS TOTALLY SURPRISED BY THE BAN DECISION. IT IS INTENDED THAT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR SHOULD TAKE OVER THE ASSETS. SCHOOLS AND TRAINING CENTERS WILL PROBABLY BE PLACED UNDER PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION. STATE SECRETARY CHRISTINE TUMABWEINE HAS SAID THAT THE BAN OF ORGANIZATIONS IS IN NO WAY TIED TO ANY EXPULSION ORDER FOR ACTIVE WHITE MISSIONARIES. THESE PEOPLE CAN DECIDE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THEIR SENDING ORGANIZATION AND THE UGANDAN ADMINISTRATION, WHETHER THEY WILL LEAVE UGANDA OR WHETHER THEY WANT TO CONTINUE THEIR WORK ON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

3. THE EMBASSY HAS ASKED MR. CARROLL AND MR. RICE TO CONTACT DR. SAUNDERS.

END TEXT
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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